

The Seattle City Council's 2006 Budget

Councilmember Richard McIver, Budget Committee Chair

"A Sustainable 2006 Budget that Puts People First"

2006 City Council Budget Highlights

The City Council's approved 2006 budget increases Mayor Nickel's proposed budget by \$8.2-million General Fund dollars, plus \$6.4 in additional and unexpected real-estate excise tax revenues.

The new 2006 Budget means more police officers and firefighters; new sidewalks; more streets will be paved; a new hygiene center will be built for the homeless plus \$18.5 million will fund transportation priorities.

Also approved in the 2006 Budget were:

HUMAN SERVICES – An added \$2 million means no reductions in shelter beds, more funds for food delivery to the homebound, new funds for health clinics and advocacy programs and a cost-of-living adjustment for human service providers.

- The Council added \$260,000 for Human Services contracts;
- The Council added \$75,000 in funding for the Center for LGBT Health. These dollars will be used for co-locating the Verbena and Gay City Health Projects;
- The Council added \$75,000 to expand the Senior Employment Program, administered by the Mayor's Office of Senior Citizens in the Human Services Department. This action addresses the rapid growth in demand for employment and job training assistance for older adults;
- The Council added \$40,000 to support the Crisis Clinic's 2-1-1 Call Center to expand the hours of operation;
- Added \$350,000 in Finance General for Homeless Shelter and Transitional Housing Services;
- Added \$150,000 for a Filipino Community Center;
- Funding for Community Health Clinics was increased by \$275,000 to cover increased cost of providing services to the growing numbers of uninsured Seattle residents;
- \$270,035 was added for Human Services Policy Advocacy;

- Added \$100,000 to for Senior Services operating expenses;
- The Council added a requirement that the Police Department add one additional police detective for Elder Abuse Investigations.

SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Added \$1,500,000 for Library Collections, bringing that collection back up to pre-recession levels;
- Added \$961,000 to increase Seattle Public Library branch and Central Library operating hours enabling more branch libraries to be open on Sundays.

TRANSPORTATION

- \$1 million for planning for transit options between West Seattle and Ballard and for a potential catastrophic failure of State Route 520;
- \$65,000 to plan for a Jackson Street corridor extension of the Waterfront Streetcar; and to do planning for a possible streetcar network;
- Funds \$20,000 for a Bike station;
- Added \$560,000 to the Neighborhood Street Fund for neighborhood projects;
- Adds \$3 million for arterial paving and other priority transportation projects.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Added \$257,000 to restore Late Night Recreation at High Point, Southwest and Rainier Beach Community Centers;
- Added \$250,000 in funding to Lower Woodland Skateboard Park;
- Added \$100,000 to Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a Comprehensive Skatepark System Plan;
- Appropriated \$200,000 REET I funds for Dahl Playfield renovation;
- Added \$600,000 in Real Estate Excise Tax II (REET) funding to the Olympic Sculpture Park for the Shoreline Restoration Project;
- Added \$150,000 for Gas Works Park Utility infrastructure upgrade so a summer concert series can be moved to that location;
- Appropriated \$100,000 REET II funds for Denny Park Playfield.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- \$400,000 for a pilot project that links people who commit "street crimes" with mental-health, substance-abuse and employment programs;
- Funded one Precinct Liaison position, linking a City Attorney to a Police Precinct, \$100,000;
- Funded ½ position for Mental Health Court, \$52,000;
- Added a Graffiti Abatement Coordinator, \$27,000;
- Added two advisors to Emergency Management and transfer Crime Prevention Coordinators to police precincts;
- Increased funding by \$125,000 for Community Court-related services;
- Added \$325,000 to the Jail Services Budget, earmarked for a program to reduce incarceration in the King County Jail;
- Accelerated evaluation of Community Court (no new money, just moved from Finance General).

RAINY DAY FUND

- Appropriated \$900,000 million to the City's Rainy Day Fund bringing the total to \$4.5 million.